

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **24 February 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claim 2 is objected to for informalities. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 7, 15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Information Disclosure Statement must be changed to reflect appropriate corrections. Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scheussler et al. (USPN 6,366,950 hereinafter “Scheussler”).

Rejections for Informalities

Claim 2 is objected to because the acronyms SHA-1 and MD-5 must be spelled out fully. Applicant has amended claim 2, as well as claims 10 and 18 to fully spell out the acronyms in question.

Examiner suggests that the terms “checking/checks” be replaced with a term such as “match” that would better render the intent of the claim limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The present invention involves checking a column attribute in the database to determine a state of the database. Applicant has amended claims 7, 15, and 23 to clearly indicate that the check is being performed to determine if “privacy” is enabled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for use of the term “or.” Claims 2, 10 and 18 were amended to clearly state the claim limitations without the use of the term “or.”

Claims 7, 15, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for use of the term “if.” Claims 7, 15 and 23 were amended to clearly state the claim limitations without the use of the term “if.”

Rejections to the Information Disclosure Statement

Examiner has objected to the information disclosure statement filed on July 9, 2003, for the incorrect citation of a patent. Applicant respectfully points out that no information disclosure statements were filed for the present application on July 9, 2003. Applicant assumes that Examiner was referring to the information disclosure statement filed on March 14, 2005. Applicant has corrected the patent citation on the information disclosure statement, and has attached the corrected information disclosure statement to the present amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scheussler. Examiner states that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 are unpatentable over Scheussler because Scheussler also teaches a hashing mechanism configured to create a hash of the private information (Scheussler, column 5, lines 44-46, and column 8, lines 43-44). Applicant respectfully points out that in the reference to the cited prior art, Scheussler teaches a hashing mechanism as **part of a client**. (Both computer 2, and computers 20 and 22, include the hashing mechanism in Scheussler, and are separate from computers 4 and 26 which include the databases.)

In contrast, the present invention teaches the hashing mechanism as **part of the database**. There is nothing within Scheussler, both explicit or implicit, that would suggest including the hashing mechanism within the database. In fact, Scheussler teaches away from the present invention by implicitly stating that the hashing mechanism is on a computer other than the computer that includes the database.

Accordingly, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify this point. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0022] of the present invention.

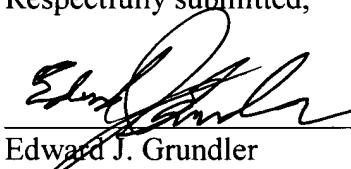
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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